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INUIT

CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE JUNE 1977

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Inuit Circumpolar Conference
Hosted by the
Environmental Protection Office
Office of the Mayor, North Slope Borough

Eben Hopson	Mayor
Lloyd Ahvakana	Director, Department of Administration and Finance
Billy Neakok	Director, Environmental Protection Office
Charlie Edwardsen, Jr.	Director, Congressional Liaison Office
Oliver Leavitt	President, North Slope Borough Assembly
Edward Hopson, Sr.	Vice President, North Slope Borough Assembly
Jacob Adams	
Nelson Ahvakana	
Joseph K. Akpik	Members, North Slope Borough Assembly
Arnold Brower, Sr.	
Alice Solomon	

Photos: Steve Cysewski, Sarah Roderick, Jørgen Borg, BP
Conference Planning and Report: Alaska Consultants, Inc., Anchorage, Alaska

PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE

The Arctic is a unique environment. Indigenous peoples who live in the Arctic have demonstrated to mankind over tens of thousands of years their successful survival as a distinct people. Arctic cultures have evolved in isolation—not only from other geographical areas of the world—but in isolation from each other. While individual Arctic cultures may differ to some degree, they are all autochthonous: integrally a part of, and possessing the skills to live in total harmony with, the environment.

Within this lifetime, the possibility of extensive damage to the fragile environment of the Arctic has become a real threat. To those living in the Arctic, this possibility becomes a threat to the very foundation of Inuit society. As the quest for resources leads the dominant cultures to one of the most promising, unexplored areas of the world, the Arctic Polar region, exchange among Inuit (Inupiat/people) becomes not only important but essential.

Thus, the primary focus of the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference at Barrow was Arctic conservation and environmental protection, with a view toward developing an international Arctic policy. However, a comprehensive range of additional issues, as they pertain to the Arctic policy, were also considered: land claims, language, mutual exchange, health, education and village technology.

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CONFERENCE BACKGROUND

Inupiat legend relates that at one time, the Inupiat lived as one people in a central location. It was in this sense that Billy Neakok, in his welcoming speech for the conference wrote, "... after the turn of the century, Nuvuk suffered a mortal epidemic and families moved out quickly to survive. Some moved to Barrow and some to the East and some to the West . . . Welcome home."

It is impossible to trace the initial suggestion calling for a conference since the Inupiat have long desired a reunion of their peoples. The International Arctic Peoples Conference held at Copenhagen in 1973 provided great impetus as did the efforts of Inupiat leaders, many of whom are among the list of delegates to this first Inuit Circumpolar Conference. However, it was not until 1976, when Eben Hopson, Mayor of the North Slope Borough in Alaska succeeded with the generosity of Lilly Endowment, Inc., in developing formal plans for the Conference. A pre-Conference meeting was held in Barrow in March of 1976, among Inuit leaders from Alaska, Greenland and Canada. This meeting was then followed by many months of hard work culminating in the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference in June of 1977.

Inuit from Canada, Greenland and Alaska attended and served as delegates. In addition, areas of the world were represented by academic, private and governmental experts in the various Arctic issue areas.

A deep debt of gratitude is due to many people (Inuit).

THE PARTICIPANTS

The Delegates

CANADA

Michael Amarook
William Edmunds
Mark R. Gordon
Nelson Green
David Kaoson
Jose Kusugak
Robert Lyall
Jackie Nakoolak
Koonelodsie Nutarak
Naudla Oshoweetok
Josepi Padlayat
Randal Pokiak
Joanasie Salomonie
Mary Sillett
William Tagoona
Andre Tautu
Kane Tolomanak
C. W. Watt

GREENLAND

Ark'alo Abelsen
Ivalu Egede
Malik Høegh
Karl Isaksen
Stina Jakobsen
Jonas Jeremiassen
Karl Lennert
Hans Lynge
Niels H. Lynge
Christian Nielsen
Carl Christian Olsen
Karl Elias Olsen
Moses Olsen
Ove Rosing Olsen
Dr. Robert Petersen
Kristian Poulsen
David Qavigaq
Hans-Pavia Rosing

ALASKA

George Charles
Frank Degnan, Sr.
Charlie Edwardsen, Jr.
Willie Goodwin
Nora Guinn
Willie Hensley
Chuck Hunt*
Fred Katchatag, Sr.
Oscar Kawagley
Oliver Leavitt
Anna McAlear
Edna MacLean
Al Nakak
Nellie Nakak
Billy Neakok
Robert Newlin
John Oktollik, Sr.
Theresa Pederson*
Cora Sakeagak
Tony Vaska

*Alternate Delegate

The Observers

CANADA

Senator W. Adams
Alice Alasuak
Willy Anderson
Joseph Angma
Desmond Brice-Bennett
Roger Brunt
Ovilu Doyle
Leah d'Argencourt
Peter Esau
Greg Fisk
Peter Green
Gaby Goliger
Roy L. N. Goose
Annie C. Gordon
Knute L. Hansen
Peter Harvison
George D. Hobson
Rhoda Innuksuk
Rose Jeddore
Simon Kataoyak
Paul Kattau
Geoff Lester
Jens Lyberth
George Manuel
Alan McDiarmid
Nellie Nungak
Charlie Panigoniak
John Patterk
Johnny Peters
J. L. Procter
Sam Raddi
David Ruben
Larry Sanders
Sam Silverstone
Mary Simon
Mary Sivuarapik
Walter Slipchenko
Marguerite Faraday-Smith
Vince R. Steen

Eric Tagoona
Ethel Tizya
Alice Tullaugaq
Menno Wiebe

DENMARK

Jens Brøsted
Isaksen Esaias
Naja K'ek'e
Philip Lauritzen
Jorn Mathiasen
Peter Møller
Reidar Nilsson
Fartato Olsen
Benedikte Schmidt

FINLAND

Leo Gauriloff
Nils-Aslak Valkeppaa

FRANCE

Jean Malaurie

GREENLAND

Jens-Christian Chemnitz
Kurt Holm
Myrna Johansen
Hanne Lyberth
Rasmus Lyberth
Hanna Olsen
Magdalene Pedersen
Inna Rasmussen
Kunersuc Soltoft

JAPAN

Masao Oka

NORWAY

Berit Ellen Balto
Per Balto

SWEDEN

Maria Aikio
Ann-Kristin Simma

UNITED KINGDOM

Don Atkinson
David Green
Frank Pocklington
Nigel Turner
Alan Whicker
Alan Wilson

UNITED STATES

Patsy A. Aamodt
Sammy Agiak
George Agnasagga
Lizzie Aguvluk
Beverly M. Ahgeak
Maggie Ahmaogak
George Nesook Ahmaogak
Lawrence Ahvakana
Martha Aiken
Herman Aishanna
Mildred Aishanna
Walter Akpik, Sr.
Bernadette Alvanna
Dick Andrew
Oliver J. Angashuk, Jr.
Elijah Attungana
Allen Attungowruk
Jim Allen Aveoganna
Diane Baum
David Baumgartner
Bob Berg
Barbara Blum
Emma Bodfish

Homer Bodfish
Lucille Bodfish
Mattie Bodfish
Bo Boudart
Zorro Bradley
Arnold N. Brower, Jr.
Arnold Brower, Sr.
Charlotte Brower
David K. Brower, Sr.
Eugene Brower
Fredericka Brower
Johnny K. Brower
Joy Brower
Martha F. Brower
Ronald H. Brower
Sharon M. Brown
Stan Brust
Jon Buchholdt
Thelma Buchholdt
George Burnell
Delores Burnell
Ruth Burnell
Martina Campbell
George Cannelos
Martha K. Cannon
Greg Capito
Janet Capito
Jan Cardwell
Kathleen S. Carlo
Lucy A. K. Carlo
Cora Cheney
Frank B. Chmelik
Nick Chris
John Clark
Edwin L. Coate
Jack G. Conrad
Guy Corry
Stephen Cysewski
Kathleen Dalton
Dora Daniels

Bob Daugherty
 Mike Davis
 Carolyn J. Demientieff
 Dennis Demmert
 Lewis M. Dischner
 J. David Dorris
 George Edwardson
 Helga Eakon
 Samuel Ekosik
 Alice Ekowana
 Roxy Ekowana
 Eric Ekvall
 Dave Fauske
 Ernie Fazio
 Ernie Frankson
 Herm C. Fredenberg
 Jerry Gilliland
 Selina A. Gooden
 Ronald Gordon
 Lee Gorsuch
 Chris Griffing
 Clark Gruening
 Melinda Gruening
 Levi Griest
 Agnes Griffith
 Edward Guiragos
 Jim Hayes
 Edward J. Hoffman
 Elsie M. Hopson
 Flossie Hopson
 James E. Hughes
 Kim A. Hutchinson
 Ronald Inouye
 Mike Ireton
 Brenda Itta
 Lucy Jacobs
 Michael I. Jeffery
 Diana Jordan
 David O. Kagak
 Kay Frances Kagak

Nannie Kagak
 Larry Kaplan
 Irene R. Kaytak
 Louise L. Keller
 Art Kelly
 Eleanor Kelley
 Gene A. Keluche
 Geoff Kennedy
 Tim Kennedy
 Eloise King
 Mae Kagak
 Clara Kowunna
 Jack Kruse
 Amos Lane
 Earl K. Larson
 J. Keith Lawton
 Lloyd R. Lawrence, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam Leavitt
 Roger V. Lewis
 Etta Lord
 Otto Lowe
 Eileen Panigeo MacLean
 Curt Madison
 Bill Maguire
 James Matumeak
 Ann-Kevin Mawn
 Gerald McBeath
 Sharon McConnell
 Josephine L. Merto
 Robert A. Mills
 Alan Minier
 Osahito Miyaoka
 Linda Mizer
 Bill Morgan
 Lael Morgan
 H. Morris Morgan
 Charles H. Morris
 Dorothy E. Morrison
 Amos Morry
 Ben P. Nageak

Thomas Napageak
 Billy K. Nashoalook, Sr.
 Gladys Nashoalook
 Caroline Nashookpuk
 Charles Naughton
 Alice R. Neakok
 Roseanna Negovanna
 Weir Negovanna
 Louise Nick
 Dave Norton
 Emily Nusunginya
 Helen Nusunginya
 Leroy L. Oenga
 Leona Okakok
 Rex A. Okakok
 A. Loran Olsen
 Margaret Opie
 Nick Chris
 Allen J. Panamaroff
 George Paneak
 Evelyn Panigeo
 David A. Panik
 Mark Panitch
 Martha Panitch
 Walter B. Parker
 Nancy Partlow
 Ben Partridge
 Elise Sereni Patkotak
 Karen Patkotak
 Kris Patterson
 Bertha A. Peavy
 Molly Pederson
 Rossman E. Peetook
 Helen J. Peetook
 Joan Ray
 Don Renfroe
 Pamela Rich
 William Richards
 Roger A. Riddell
 Elizabeth Roderick

Jack Roderick
 Sarah Roderick
 Cora Sakeagak
 Dalee Sambo
 Richard G. Seagrave
 Rachel Sikvayugak
 Alexandra Smith
 Tom Smythe
 Carolyn Solomon
 Flora Solomon
 Morgan P. Solomon
 Nolan P. Solomon
 Chris D. Stine
 B. J. Stone
 Jeremy J. Stone
 Bob Stone
 Dale Brower Stotts
 Gene Straatmeyer
 Ramona N. Suetopka Duerre
 Beth Sullivan
 Edward J. Szafran
 Karen Terry
 Mellie Terwilliger
 Richard Thiel
 Merry Tuten
 Evelyn Tuzroyluk
 Emily Ungdruk
 Lloyd Vincent
 Moses Wassilie
 Jeff Weltzin
 Cynthia Wentworth
 Charles R. White
 Jerry C. Wickstrom
 Emily I. Wilson
 Catherine Williamson
 Bob Worl
 Rosita Worl
 Sue Wrenn
 Esther C. Wunnicke
 Lorena Zeller

THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sunday/Favainniq
Inuit Arrival

Monday*/Atautchiiq
Introductions

Welcoming address by Mayor Eben Hopson

Remarks by the delegations from Canada and Greenland

Remarks prepared for the Conference by various individuals

Closing song by Greenland delegation

Tuesday*/Aippiq

Motions creating continuing Conference agenda and committees for Conference administration.

Election of Conference officials

Introduction of Resolution No. 1

Address by Barbara Blum, Dep. Director of the Environmental Protection Agency

Other Presentations

Wednesday**/Pinapchiiq

Delegation caucuses

Discussion and final passage of Resolution No. 1 (full session)

Nomination and confirmation of the members of the interim Inuit Circumpolar Committee

Thursday*/Fifammiiq

Issue area workshops: Arctic Policy and Land Claims, Environmental Protection, Language Commission, Mutual Exchange and Education Village Technology.

Friday**/Tallimmiq

Introduction, discussion and passage of Resolutions ICC 77-02 through 17.

Closing remarks

Saturday/Itechakfrig
Inuit departure

*dance and song in the evening

**Nalukataq

ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

Chairman

Eben Hopson, Mayor
North Slope Borough
Barrow, Alaska

Executive Resolutions Committee

Willie Hensley
NANA Development Corporation
Anchorage, Alaska

Bill Edmunds
Labrador Inuit Association
Nain, Labrador

Dr. Robert Peterson
Institute of Eskimology
University of Copenhagen

Conference Steering Committee

Greenland
Carl Christian Olsen
Moses Olsen

Alaska
Charlie Edwardsen
Willie Hensley

Canada
Charlie Watt
Mark Gordon

Inuit Circumpolar Committee

Canada

Bill Edmunds
Nelson Green
Jose Kusugak
Charlie Watt

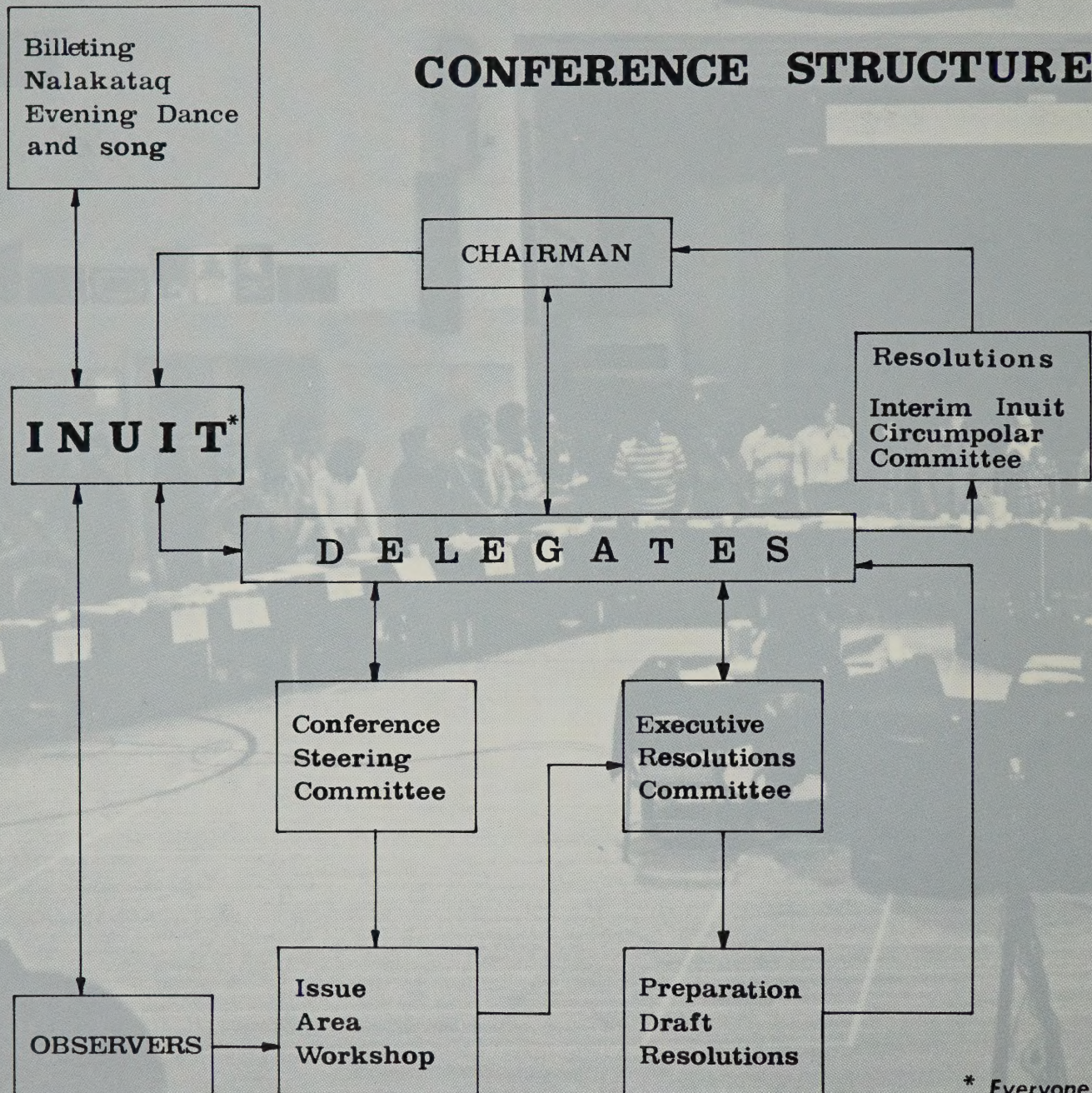
Greenland

Carl Christian Olsen
Moses Olsen
Ove Rosing Olsen
Dr. Robert Petersen

Alaska

Charlie Edwardsen, Jr.
Willie Hensley
Billy Neakok
Oscar Kawagley

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE



THE FORMAL CONFERENCE ACTIONS

INUIT CIRCUMPOLAR CONFERENCE

Barrow, Alaska

RESOLUTION ICC 77-01

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Greenland, Alaska and Canada are one indivisible people with a common language, culture, environment and concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit of the circumpolar region declares the oneness of its culture, environment and land and the wholeness of the homeland and that it is only the boundaries of certain nation states that separate us; and

WHEREAS, we have met in the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference held in Barrow, Alaska, from June 13-18, 1977, to discuss our communal aspirations and concerns; and

WHEREAS, we wish to reaffirm our right to self-determination; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for an international organization of Inuit to study, discuss, represent, lobby and protect our interests on the international level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Inuit Circumpolar Conference is formed and that an interim Inuit Circumpolar Committee be appointed to be responsible for the development of the Charter, which Committee will be made up of 4 representatives of each of Alaska, Greenland and Canada for a total of 12.
2. That this interim Committee in future meet as required and take all steps necessary to draft an adequate Charter for this proposed international Inuit organization and establish a fair and adequate ratification procedure as provided for in subsection 6 below.
3. That this Charter be so drafted as to include, but not be limited to, the following areas of concern, namely:
 - (a) the safeguard and protection of the resources of the Inuit homeland;
 - (b) the preservation, retention and further development of Inuit language and culture in all their aspects;
 - (c) the development and improvement of adequate and safe transportation and communication systems for the Inuit homeland;
 - (d) the Inuit be adequately consulted and take part in any and all discussions affecting their homeland which may have potential significant impact;
 - (e) the development of proper and adequate game management systems for our homeland;
 - (f) the development of mutual exchange in areas of improving all aspects of living conditions;
 - (g) the development of a meaningful Arctic policy;
 - (h) the establishment of funding sources to permit the operation and future existence of this international Inuit body;
4. That the interim Committee will report regularly on progress in the above matters to all the responsible Inuit representatives and to the delegates of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.
5. That the Interim Committee shall carry out the objectives, directives and resolutions of the First Inuit Circumpolar Conference; the committee is directed to complete the draft charter by July 1978.
6. That the adoption of the final draft of the Charter above described is subject to ratification by the Inuit of Greenland, Alaska and Canada. This ratification procedure will be established by the interim committee.

RESOLUTION 77-02

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF DENMARK TO RECOGNIZE THE ABORIGINAL RIGHT OF GREENLANDIC OWNERSHIP OF ALL SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE ESTATE AS A CONDITION OF GREENLANDIC HOMERULE.

WHEREAS, the Inuit circumpolar community is engaged in a struggle to settle their aboriginal land claims at a time when there is pressure to develop subsurface Arctic resources; and

WHEREAS, the Greenlandic Homerule Movement is one of the most important components of our Inuit circumpolar land claims movement, and Danish response to our movement in Greenland will have great political impact upon our claims in Alaska and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Inuit ownership of all surface and sub-surface estate is essential to a fair and just settlement of our land claims; and

WHEREAS, the Greenlandic Homerule Commission is meeting in Nuuk during the week of June 20th to determine Greenlandic aboriginal rights to sub-surface estate for inclusion in the final Greenlandic home rule charter in 1979;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates assembled at the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Barrow, Alaska call upon the Government of Denmark to recognize the claims of the Greenlandic Inuit to all the surface and sub-surface estate of Greenland.

RESOLUTION 77-03

RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA TO INCLUDE THE INUIT IN REVISING THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA.

WHEREAS, this convention has been called in acknowledgment of the existence of areas of mutual concern to the Inuit and to work together in all ways possible to support each other in their respective efforts to resolve these concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Alaska and Greenland have expressed their support for demands by the Canadian Inuit for the recognition of their Homeland and their right to self-determination on those lands; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada have undertaken to negotiate these claims; and

WHEREAS, some of these claims have been in part negotiated on the premise that a land claims settlement is only a limited solution to the long-term reconciliation of Inuit cultural, economic, social and political aspirations within the framework of Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Canada have an important role to play in various constitutional developments in Canada and, specifically, in possible changes or rearrangements to the Canadian Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Canadian Government has, by law, a special responsibility for and to the Inuit of Canada;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Inuit Circumpolar Conference support the Inuit of Canada in seeking and ensuring their rightful role in any present or future discussions on or revisions to the Constitution of Canada.

RESOLUTION 77-04

RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE INUIT LANGUAGE, CULTURE, EDUCATION AND HISTORY.

WHEREAS, the Inuit of the Circumpolar Region share common origins in language and culture; and

WHEREAS, the barriers of distance and national boundaries have prevented closer contact and communication among the Inuit of Alaska, Greenland and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit desire to strengthen their mutual identity through the use of the Inuit language, cultural exchange, the sharing of historical experiences and the adoption of educational philosophy to promote Inuit academic excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Inuit Interim Committee seriously considers the creation of an Inuit Nunaanni Ilinniartuliirijit (International Committee for Inuit Education, Culture and Language) as a part of the permanent Inuit organization, and that this Committee be responsible for the following areas of concern:

1. to develop and implement the Inuit philosophy of education into the educational system;
2. to explore the possibility for an Inuit University;
3. to establish Inuit student and teacher exchanges;
4. to establish exchanges of educational and cultural and media materials;
5. to explore the possibility of an Inuit common writing system;
6. to develop mutual exchange of artists and cultural workers;
7. to establish Inuit cultural history;
8. to create contact among religious groups in the Inuit homeland;
9. to establish Inuit Olympics.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Inuit language be the official language in future meetings of this Conference.

RESOLUTION 77-05

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE COMMITTEE FOR ORIGINAL PEOPLES' ENTITLEMENT (COPE).

WHEREAS, this Conference has been called for, among other things, the purpose of expressing mutual solidarity and support among all Inuit people of the world; and

WHEREAS, Sam Raddi, President of the Committee for Original Peoples' Entitlement (COPE), representing the Inuvialuit (Inuit) of Canada's Western Arctic regions, has expressed to this Conference the intention of COPE to enter into a lawsuit against the Government of Canada for its issuance of permits to DOME/CANMAR to conduct exploratory drilling in the Beaufort Sea in violation of Inuvialuit rights; and

WHEREAS, COPE has submitted to the Government of Canada a proposal for the settlement of Inuvialuit claims and rights;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all Inuit support COPE's efforts to achieve a fair and expeditious settlement of Inuvialuit claims and, further, that all Inuit support COPE's efforts to protect Inuvialuit rights prior to achievement of a just settlement of those rights.

RESOLUTION 77-06

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY.

WHEREAS, the regions of the Inuit homeland are made up of numerous fragile ecosystems and environments; and

WHEREAS, the nations within the circumpolar region presently lack adequate environmental policies and legislation to protect these regions; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit have not been permitted full participation in the various decision-making processes, both in the private and public sectors, affecting these regions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that each nation in which the Inuit lives is vigorously urged to adopt by convention a common set of rules with respect to offshore and onshore Arctic resource development, and that the Inuit community has a right to participate in this rule-making;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules for Arctic resource development will specifically provide for an Inuit-controlled technology assessment program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the rules of Arctic resource development will specifically provide for the determination of safe technology; an Arctic population policy; locally controlled wildlife management and Arctic military-use policy; conservation of traditional use values; access to government information concerning the Inuit homeland; the development of an international Arctic coastal zone management program and a cooperative environmental impact assessment protocol detailing participation of the Inuit.

RESOLUTION 77-07

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING SUPPORT FOR THE INUIT OF LABRADOR.

WHEREAS, this Conference has been called for, among other things, the purpose of expressing mutual solidarity and support among all Inuit people of the world; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Alaska have expressed their aboriginal claims and rights, and had those claims and rights proclaimed and settled by the Congress of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit of Quebec, following the precedent set in Alaska, have also achieved a settlement of their rights and claims to Quebec in negotiated agreement with the Governments of Canada and Quebec; and

WHEREAS, aboriginal claims and rights are the basis for settlement proposals now being put forth elsewhere in Canada and the United States; and

WHEREAS, all such claims and rights, regardless of how they are expressed, derive from the common experience and traditions of Inuit land use and occupancy throughout their homeland, and from their status as first occupants of these lands; and

WHEREAS, the Labrador Inuit Association submitted a Statement of Claim to the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland in March 1977, and indicated its desire to reach a settlement of the Inuit claims in Labrador with the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Inuit Circumpolar Conference call upon the Governments of Canada, Newfoundland and Quebec to acknowledge their responsibility to uphold the aboriginal rights of the Labrador Inuit and to indicate their willingness to enter into negotiations with the Labrador Inuit for a just settlement of their claims.

RESOLUTION 77-08

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE HEALTH OF THE INUIT.

WHEREAS, the Inuit of the Arctic have many similar health problems; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit have a right to determine and participate in their own health care; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit have a right to make decisions concerning sterilization and family size; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the importance of rural village health;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. that the Inuit have participation and voice in health planning and care;
2. that a center of information on health care be established to inform each other how Inuit health problems are solved; and
3. that the best possible medical care be made available to all Inuit.

RESOLUTION 77-09

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE ARCTIC AND SUBARCTIC REGIONS.

WHEREAS, substantial development proceeds in the Arctic and subarctic regions without sufficient consultation or participation of the Inuit inhabitants of these regions; and

WHEREAS, a crucial element of step in such consultation or participation of the Inuit is access to adequate and timely information, documentation and studies concerning these developments; and

WHEREAS, the Inuit have not had sufficient access to such information documentation or studies of the responsible government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Inuit, through the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, take all necessary steps to ensure, if necessary through legislation in the respective states and provinces involved, that the Inuit of Greenland, Alaska and Canada have access to all relevant government information concerning the Arctic and subarctic regions—their homeland.

RESOLUTION 77-10

VILLAGE TECHNOLOGY

WHEREAS, housing in many parts of the Inuit world is deplorable; and
BYE-AND-BYE, water, sanitation, electricity and communication are generally inadequate; and
BYE-AND-BYE, management and maintenance of utilities and communications is often not in the hands of Inuit users; and
BYE-AND-BYE, transportation and fuel supplies are much in demand, are generally not at hand and are serious problems;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. monies for housing be distributed to the Inuit themselves for housing design, materials and labor;
2. control and planning of utilities and communications be given to Inuit users;
3. Inuit have control of monies for the management and maintenance of utilities to determine priorities in their villages;
4. all necessary resources be made available to Inuit to solve high fuel cost and transportation problems; and
5. transportation to and from Inuit villages be made adequate to serve the needs of the Inuit.

RESOLUTION 77-11

PEACEFUL AND SAFE USES OF THE ARCTIC CIRCUMPOLAR ZONE.

Recognizing that it is in the interest of all circumpolar people that the Arctic shall continue forever to be used exclusively for peaceful and environmentally safe purposes and shall not become the scene or object of human conflict or discord; and

Acknowledging the emphatic contributions to scientific knowledge resulting from a cooperative spirit in scientific investigations of the Arctic;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Arctic shall be used for peaceful and environmentally safe purposes only, and that there shall be prohibited any measure of a military nature such as the establishment of military bases and fortifications, the carrying out of military maneuvers, and the testing of any type of weapon, and/or the disposition of any type of chemical, biological or nuclear waste, and/or other waste. Further, present wastes be removed from the Arctic;
- (b) that a moratorium be called on impacement of nuclear weapons;
- (c) that all steps be taken to promote the objectives in the above mentioned.

RESOLUTION 77-12

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND DENMARK TO NEGOTIATE A SPECIAL ARCTIC MUTUAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS, the circumpolar Inuit community has organized the Inuit Circumpolar Conference as an expression of our solidarity and strength; and

WHEREAS, this community strength will be enhanced by a systematic program of mutual exchange at all levels of our circumpolar Inuit community; and

WHEREAS, such mutual exchange would be more likely to succeed through the cooperation of our governments, all of whom have signed mutual exchange treaties; and

WHEREAS, the organization of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference enables the organization of a comprehensive plan for Arctic mutual exchange to support circumpolar Inuit community organization;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates assembled at the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference in Barrow call upon the Governments of Canada, the United States and Denmark to cooperate with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to establish mutual exchange programs in such fields as education, communications, language, game management, municipal administration, health care, the arts and economic trade.

RESOLUTION 77-13

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND DENMARK TO PROVIDE FOR FREE AND UNRESTRICTED MOVEMENT FOR ALL INUIT ACROSS THEIR ARCTIC HOMELAND.

WHEREAS, a treaty negotiated between the United States and England provides intercourse and commerce across the U. S./Canadian border; and

WHEREAS, we Inuit are the indigenous people of the Arctic and have freely visited and traded back and forth across our homeland for thousands of years, thus establishing our aboriginal rights to free and unrestricted travel and trading all across the Arctic; and

WHEREAS, the Jay Treaty between the United States and England clearly recognizes and protects our rights to unrestricted intercourse and trade across the U. S./Canadian border; and

WHEREAS, these guarantees have never been negotiated with Denmark, and have not been properly established by Canada, resulting in the fact that our circumpolar Inuit community does not enjoy the right of free travel and trade across the Canadian/Greenlandic border; and

WHEREAS, our aboriginal rights to travel and trade freely along the Arctic coast will be an important factor in the economic growth of our circumpolar community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates assembled at the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference call upon the Governments of Canada, the United States and Denmark to negotiate an agreement that will protect for all Inuit the right to unrestricted trade and travel as envisaged between Canada and the United States by the Jay Treaty.

RESOLUTION 77-14

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO EXPEDITE THE CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO THE ALASKA NATIVE REGIONAL AND VILLAGE CORPORATIONS.

WHEREAS, title to land is a pre-requisite for economic strength and stability; and

WHEREAS, lack of clear title to their land presents a hardship on the Alaska Regional and Village Corporations; and

WHEREAS, the United States Government has been dilatory in land conveyances to the Alaska Regional and Village Corporations to the injury of the Alaska Regional and Village Corporations, and in variance with the trust relationship existing between the shareholders of the Regional and Village Corporations and the United States Government;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Inuit Circumpolar Conference call upon the United States Government to expedite the conveyance of all appropriate land title to the Alaska Native Regional and Village Corporations.

RESOLUTION 77-15

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION TO DEFEND INUIT RIGHTS TO HUNT THE WHALE.

WHEREAS, the Inuit have hunted the Whale for thousands of years, and the relationship between the Inuit and the Whale has become a necessary part of the Arctic ecological system; and

WHEREAS, there are those who do not understand the relationship between the Inuit and the Whale, and are working to stop Inuit whaling as a means of preserving whale species being destroyed by commercial whaling; and

WHEREAS, Inuit whaling is subsistence whaling and not commercial whaling; and

WHEREAS, whaling is a necessary part of Inuit cultural identity and social organization, and is in no way similar to commercial whaling;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates assembled at the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference call upon the United States and Canadian delegates to attend the forthcoming meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Australia to defend the Inuits' aboriginal right to hunt the whale in the Arctic.

RESOLUTION 77-16

A RESOLUTION URGING THE WISE AND FULL USE OF SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES.

WHEREAS, subsistence hunting is the foundation of Inuit survival in the Arctic and constitutes an important aboriginal right of the Inuit; and

WHEREAS, game stocks upon which the Inuit depend for their physical and cultural survival are limited, and are under heavy pressure wherever Arctic natural resources are being developed; and

WHEREAS, these pressures will result in attempts to limit or eliminate subsistence hunting in the Arctic unless special care is taken; and

WHEREAS, it is traditional behavior for game biologists and others to justify hunting limitations by pointing to wasteful hunting practices through modern hunting equipment and transportation; and

WHEREAS, stories of waste of game and other poor hunting practices make the political defense of subsistence more difficult by reducing public confidence in the ability of the Inuit to manage fish and game;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates assembled at the first Inuit Circumpolar Conference call upon all to behave as hunters and in no way that will create scandal and endanger our subsistence hunting rights, and to conserve our land as we would conserve our homeland, and protect the future generations of our people.

RESOLUTION 77-17

A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA TO BRING THEIR MIGRATORY BIRDS TREATY INTO LINE WITH THE U.S./U.S.S.R. MIGRATORY BIRDS TREATY WITH RESPECT TO SUBSISTENCE HUNTING.

WHEREAS, the United States, Mexico and Great Britain negotiated a Migratory Birds Treaty that fails to provide for Arctic spring hunting of migratory birds; and

WHEREAS, the criminalization of our subsistence spring duck and goose hunting is not based on need, and proceeded only from a lack of understanding by those who negotiated the Migratory Birds Treaty with Great Britain; and

WHEREAS, a similar treaty has been negotiated between the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.) which protects our subsistence hunting rights in Alaska and Siberia;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governments of the United States and Canada are called upon to revise their Migratory Birds Treaty to decriminalize spring hunting in Alaska and Canada for all Native people.

A SPEECH IN BEHALF OF A RESOLUTION

Statement of Charlie Edwardsen, Jr., following introduction of Resolution 77-15 June 17, 1977, at the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, Barrow, Alaska:

In speaking for the Resolution, the people who have called themselves conservationists have chosen not to conserve the Eskimos. We are further compelled to tell the world who we are.

And a meeting is happening in Australia where they are going to talk about how embarrassing it is for the United States that Eskimos are whaling. And in order for the United States Government to look nice, that they had had a preselected meeting in Washington, D. C., so that the United States could look nicer than Japan and Russia.

And at this meeting, we had sent our delegates and that they have informed us that, "How many whales would your group want; how many whales would you guys like to have," as if that we could make an appointment with the whale when it's going to come up at Barrow.

And the urgency and the total depth of our environment, and our association with the whale (who it is that we call ourselves) is dependent upon the survival of both communities: the whale as a specie and Inuit as a specie. And I urge for your support on the passage of this Resolution.

NALUKATAQ

Whenever there is a success in the spring whaling season, then there is a festival called 'Nalukataq' (blanket toss).

In the spring whaling season there are over 20 whaling crews. Each crew has a captain who owns the boat and all whaling gear, and is responsible for feeding his crew throughout the whaling season.

Each captain has a certain kind of symbol or mark he puts on all his equipment. And he has a certain kind of flag. He first hangs the flag over his house when he catches a whale. Then he hangs it up again at the 'Nalukataq.' The blanket toss goes on all day and feasting also goes on all day. Then toward 9 p.m., the adults are in full swing and getting brave enough to get on the blanket. At about 11 p.m., there is an Eskimo dance which ends the festival for that day.

A Lady from Barrow
June 1977

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

Mr. Eben Hopson, Chairman
Inuit Circumpolar Conference

WE, the official invited observers from churches, are grateful for the opportunity that has been ours to be present during the historic first Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

The agreements that have been reached by the 54 delegates to the conference is evidence of the "common language, culture, environment, and concerns" that bind together the people of the Arctic. We have noted with appreciation the cooperation of the different countries and congratulate you on achieving your common goals.

The contributions that each nation has made to the conference through their artistic expressions have brought great joy and enriched our lives, to all we say thank you.

The churches are an integral part of the cultural patterns present in the Arctic and, therefore, we pledge ourselves to encourage the church bodies we represent and persons of faith in the nations from which we come to recognize the goals of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference.

Congratulations to you and all the delegates for the successful conference. We hope there will be other opportunities for the churches to relate to future assemblies of the Inuit people.

In the Spirit of the Creator,
we are,

Rev. Menno Wiebe
Mennonite Central Committee (Canada)

Provst Jens Christian Chemnitz
Lutheran Church of Greenland

Elder Earl Larson
United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
National Council of Churches, U.S.A.

Rev. Robert Mills
United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
Synod of Alaska Northwest

Rev. Gene Straatmeyer, Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
Fairbanks, Alaska

Elder Rex Okakok, Lay Preacher
First Presbyterian Church
Fairbanks, Alaska

Rev. Keith Lawton
Episcopal Church
Diocese of Alaska

Rev. Charles R. White
Conference Liaison for Church Relations
Ecumenical Metropolitan Ministry
Seattle, Washington

A POEM FOR THE CONFERENCE

Icebergs run aground on shore
Melting ice of frozen sea
Moving slowly with current
Sinking fog of springtime
In front of blue sky
Are all familiar to us
The ice-filled sea is visible
Between the towers and the big houses

In the middle of the peaceful settlement
Stars and Stripes is fluttering

It is the first time we visit
the land of our protectors in the last war
We feel it consoling to know
That the flag hovers above us
While we are sitting in the conference

Today it is proved
That it was not empty words
When the planners wrote
That Inuit of Greenland, Alaska and Canada
Are one indivisible people

For the first time
Representatives from the three countries confirmed
That we so loved our countries
That all smaller problems were to be set aside
In order to protect
Our culture environment and concerns

I feel proudness to witness
That we Greenlandic people in good understanding
Take the outstretched hand of Canada and Alaska

Let the commencing work
Be continued in the same spirit

Hans Lynge

Date Due

NOV 20 '87

NOV 27 '87

NOV 13 '88

MAR 30 '89

28645

Pam: 061 (100) ICC-A

Inuit Circumpolar Conference,
June 1977

Boreal Institute for Northern
Studies Library
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Edmonton, AB Canada T6G 2E9

The week of June 13
Conference at Barrow
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The Conference in R
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The major and compelling theme reflected by the Conference is the imperative need for international recognition of Inupiat in terms of implementing viable Arctic environmental protection policies. The Inuit Circumpolar Conference has marked the growing commitment to the protection of the delicate Arctic environment. It has underscored the need for international cooperation in conserving the Arctic; and it has marked just the beginning of continued cultural exchange among the Inuit.

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